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Vicky

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by Jo Ann Breckenridge

ONCE Vicky was given a beautiful, bunny-soft sweater. After wearing it to a dance and three physics labs, it needed washing, so she gaily dumped it in with the rest of her wash at the Launderette. Horrors! Now the sweater wouldn't even fit her 2-month-old niece, so Vicky has learned how to wash delicate clothing the right way.

Her pride and joy is a cherry cashmere pullover which she purchased this fall. After several washings it still rates compliments, for Vicky now treats her sweaters, whether nylon, angora, nubby knit or cashmere, almost like babies. She never wears them constantly and washes them gently.

Deciding to be business-like about this sweater washing, Vicky now has a file system to help her. She draws the outline of each new sweater on brown paper and cuts it out. This is her guide for stretching it back to the original shape after washing. Each pattern and any washing instructions are numbered and filed away for future use. Using indelible ink, she prints the matching number on bias tape and sews it to an inside seam.

Pin Into Shape

Vicky's roommate has found a bulletin board is good for more than displaying dance programs and pictures of her favorite date. Wiping hers clean with a damp cloth, she lays the dry sweater on it, outlining the shape with pins. When wet she replaces it, pins it into shape and leaves it to dry. If you use a drying frame, Vicky warns you to adjust it before each sweater is washed.

Vicky's sweaters are tubbed before they look soiled for she knows that although there are no spots, perspiration clings to wool and causes unpleasant odors and lumpy wool. Take a tip from Vicky and use mild soap, completely dissolved in luke warm water. If the soap isn't dissolved it may cling to the sweater and cause yellowing. Test the water with your elbow or use a thermometer. At 100 degrees, water is hot enough to dissolve body oils without disastrous results to sensitive wool fibers. If you work up a 4-inch standing suds you'll have enough soap bubbles to float away the soil.

Save dousing, rubbing and twisting for the day you wash your jeans. Friction mats and hardens wool, so be gentle with your sweater. Vicky turns her sweater

inside out and lowers it into the water. With cupping motions she squishes water and suds through and through. Spots disappear under the gentle rubbing of a soft, soapy brush. When all dirt has vanished, Vicky supports her sweater with both hands to prevent stretching and lifts it from the water.

She gently squishes clear water through the wool three times. This water must be the same temperature as the wash water or your sweater may shrink. For a dainty, fresh-smelling sweater, Vicky adds a few drops of her favorite cologne to the last rinse. She removes water by laying the sweater flat on a turkish towel, rolling and pressing out excess moisture.

Dry With Care

Dry your sweaters as Vicky does. Put the damp sweater on a dry towel, cover it with the paper pattern and gently pull the sweater into shape. Pinch the waist and cuffs inward and pin the sweater to the towel with rustproof pins. The paper pattern is then removed and put back in the file. By tucking tissue paper between double thicknesses of sweater, Vicky speeds up the drying. She then lays the garment in a dry, shady spot and covers it with a paper to protect it from dust, soot or a roommate's sadly-placed foot. Vicky dries her sweaters at least 24 hours.

Iron Over Paper

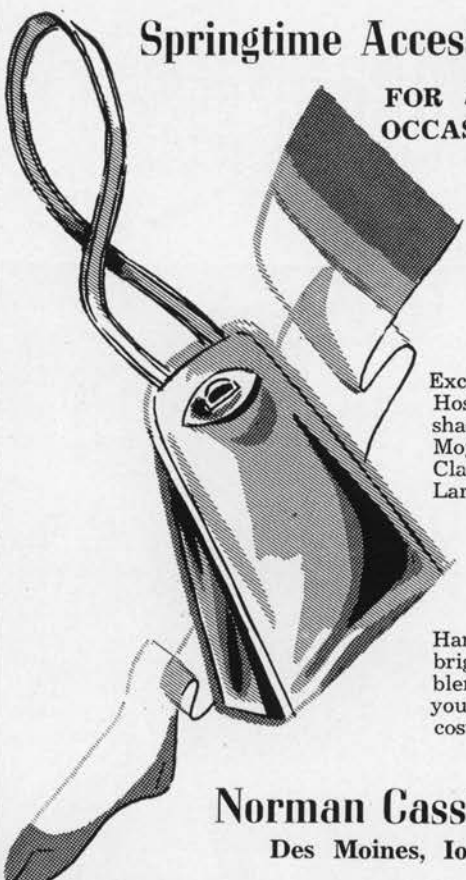
Before folding and putting her sweater in a drawer, she irons it on the wrong side with a moderately warm iron, using a damp pressing cloth between the iron and the sweater. She lifts the iron from place to place, never pushing it along the surface. The moisture left from the damp pressing cloth is no problem for Vicky, who covers the sweater with brown paper and irons over the paper.

It took Vicky all fall quarter and 2 weeks of this quarter to knit herself a pair of cable-stitch anklets. After all her work she wants them to keep their shape so she has homemade sock forms to dry them on. After washing the socks as she does her sweaters, she pulls them onto cardboard cutouts covered with towel-ing.

(Continued on page 12)

Springtime Accessories

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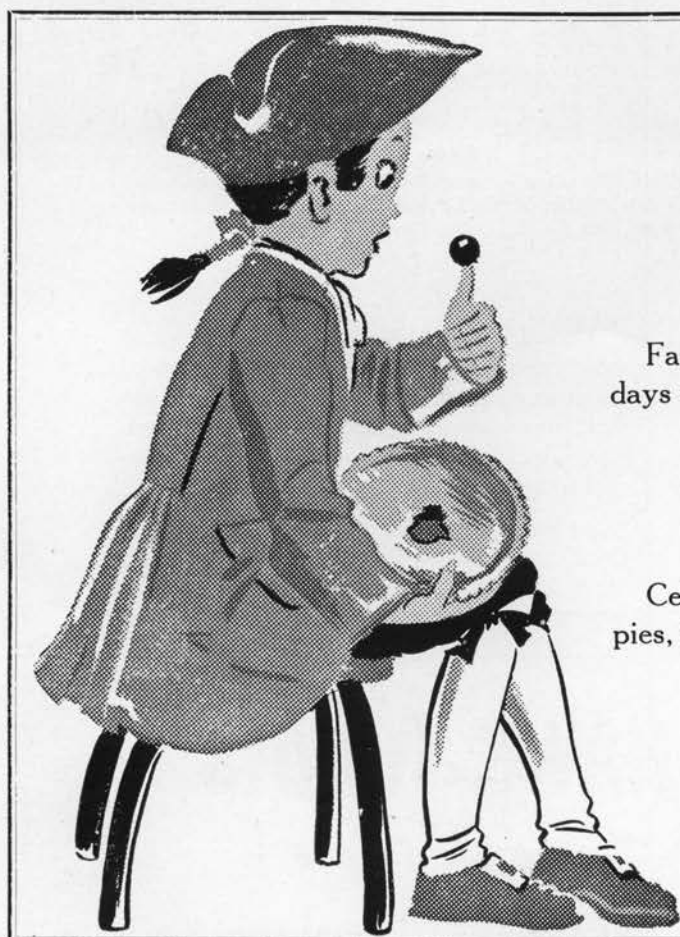
(Continued from page 7)

When Vicky was a gangly teenager in junior high, her heart yearned for silk hose, but mother wouldn't let her have them until she agreed to wash them properly. Today, in college, she washes her nylons with the same care her mother taught her then. She squeezes lukewarm suds through each until they're clean, but she never wrings or twists them. After rinsing until the water is clear, she presses out excess moisture in a clean bath towel and hangs them on a smooth rod to dry away from the heat. Vicky wears her hose only once before washing them.

Some of her friends have a new hose-washing gadget that Vicky thinks is fine. They put their hose in a plastic shaker (like a malt shaker) of sudsy water and shake a few moments. It swirls the hose until they're clean. The smooth surface is guaranteed not to snag. For any basin washing, a rubber plunger designed for the purpose is gentle but firm in forcing the dirt out.

If you followed fall's new fashions as Vicky did, you probably have a quilted suit, skirt or vest hanging in your closet. Washing instructions probably came with the garment. Follow them step by step. Then, Vicky suggests, hang the garment over a towel and carefully flatten out the stitches. After you wash your favorite corduroy skirt, brush the corduroy against the nap. It usually doesn't need to be pressed, but if it does, press on the wrong side.

Dorm washday used to be a blue washday for Vicky because she was always getting clothes mixed up and losing slips. A brainstorm solved the problem of a community line. By painting the tops of her clothespins a brilliant green, she now recognizes her own washing at a glance.



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